

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

762.00/1-759

183

Memorandum of Conversation

Appvd DEBoster 1/16/59

DATE: January 7, 1959

SUBJECT: Berlin

PARTICIPANTS: M. Herve Alphand, French Ambassador
M. Charles Lucet, French Minister
The Secretary
Mr. Robert McBride, WE
Mr. Dean Brown, WE

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Ambassador Alphand commented that the U.S. and U.K. appear to differ on Berlin.

The Secretary replied that it is of the utmost importance to maintain a show of strength. If we do, the problem will evaporate; if not, we are in grave danger.

Ambassador Alphand agreed, saying we are risking war if we are weak.

The Secretary said that he is attacked as willing to risk war, but this is wrong. You stop war if you are strong and firm. By saying that Korea was outside our zone of interest, by withdrawing our troops from Korea, and by not supporting the Korean Army we had gotten into the Korean War. Doubt cannot be allowed to exist; it leads to miscalculations which breed war.

The Ambassador said that he soon hoped to be able to agree officially.

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